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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 020600-283

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Gunter Schmidt, et al ) Group Art Unit: 1655  
Application No.: 09/462,408 ) Examiner: Forman, B.  
Filed: April 10, 2000 )  
For: CHARACTERISING NUCLEIC )  
ACIDS )

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2001, the due date for which has been extended one month with a Petition for Extension of Time attached, applicants request reconsideration of the Office Action and entry of the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A method for characterizing DNA, which comprises:
- (i) providing a population of fragments of said DNA, each fragment having cleavably attached thereto a mass label for identifying a feature of that fragment;
  - (ii) separating the fragments on the basis of their length;
  - (iii) cleaving each fragment in a mass spectrometer to release its mass label; and